

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14495 01 OF 03 052008Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 CEQ-01 EPA-04
HEW-06 AGRE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /141 W
-----029111 052103Z /65

R 051831Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1099
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 14495

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DOE PASS VANDERRYN, LEGASSE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, OECD
SUBJECT: APRIL 26 MEETING OF NEA STEERING COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: IN ONE-DAY MEETING LASTING UNTIL ALMOST
8:00 P.M., NEA STEERING COMMITTEE: (A) TOOK NOTE
OF COUNCIL DECISION ESTABLISHING A MULTILATERAL
CONSULTATION AND SURVEILLANCE MECHANISM FOR SEA DUMPING
OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE; (B) SET MAY 15 AS DATE
BY WHICH WRITTEN COMMENTS ON DRAFT ACTIVITIES REPORT
MUST BE RECEIVED; (C) DECIDED TO TERMINATE SYSTEM
OF INFORMATION NOTES; (D) TOOK NOTE OF PROGRESS
REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL FOOD IRRADIATION PROJECT;
(E) DIRECTED SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE ACTION PROGRAM,
FOR CONSIDERATION AT OCTOBER SESSION, ON LEGAL,
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS RAISED BY
LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE, (F)
ADOPTED PARAGRAPH 8 OF NE(78)7; (G) APPROVED PROGRAM
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14495 01 OF 03 052008Z

OF SYMPOSIA AND SEMINARS FOR 1979; (H) AGREED
THAT NE(78)9 WOULD FORM BASIS FOR SECRETARIAT'S
PREPARATION OF 1979 BUDGET PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD
INDICATE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS, FOR CONSIDERATION
IN OCTOBER; (I) SELECTED ALER (SWEDEN) AS CHAIRMAN
AND RUNNALLS (CANADA) AND VAN DE WINKEL (NETHERLANDS)
AS VICE CHAIRMEN FOR 1979; AND (J) SET NEXT

MEETING FOR OCTOBER 26. END SUMMARY.

2. MINUTES OF 55TH SESSION (26-27 OCTOBER 1977)
AND SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 1977 APPROVED,
WITH FOLLOWING ADDITION TO FIRST PARAGRAPH PAGE 31
OF NE/M(77)2 AT INSISTENCE OF ITALIANS: "IN LIGHT
OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, THE ITALIAN DELEGATION
BELIEVES THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED."
IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE BRITISH, ITALIAN
REP INDICATED ADDITION TO MINUTES REFERRED ONLY
TO MAXIMUM AMOUNTS OF LIABILITY AND NOT TO OTHER
POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION.

3. AFTER SECRETARIAT (STROHL) AGREED TO PRODUCE
FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
A MORE PRECISE FORMULA FOR DETERMINING DATE AT
WHICH DUMPING OPERATION IS CONSIDERED TO BEGIN,
STEERING COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE OF COUNCIL DECISION
ESTABLISHING MULTILATERAL CONSULTATION AND SUR-
VEILLANCE MECHANISM FOR SEA DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE
WASTE.

4. STEERING COMMITTEE ACCEPTED DG WILLIAMS'
SUGGESTION THAT WRITTEN COMMENTS ON DRAFT SIXTH NEA
ACTIVITIES REPORT BE RECEIVED BY MAY 15. FOLLOWING
IRISH, U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN REQUEST FOR SUMMARY
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PAGE 03 PARIS 14495 01 OF 03 052008Z

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT, WILLIAMS PROMISED THAT PRESS
RELEASE ACCOMPANYING REPORT WOULD BE PREPARED SO AS
TO SERVE THAT PURPOSE.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE DECIDED, WITHOUT DISCUSSION,
TO TERMINATE SYSTEM OF INFORMATION NOTES.

6. FOLLOWING REMARKS BY ITALIAN DELEGATE TO
EFFECT THAT FAO, ONE OF PROJECT'S THREE ORIGINAL
SPONSORS, SEEMED TO BE LOSING INTEREST AND SUG-
GESTED THAT IFAD MIGHT BE APPROACHED FOR FINANCIAL
CONTRIBUTION. STEERING COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE OF THE
PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD IRRADIA-
TION PROJECT.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14495 02 OF 03 052011Z
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SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 CEQ-01 EPA-04
HEW-06 AGRE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /141 W
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 14495

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7. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 7. SPECIAL SESSION
ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT, PRODUCED LIVELY
INTERCHANGE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES RODERICK
AND FAIRCLOUGH STRESSED NEED FOR CLOSER COOPERATION
BETWEEN NEA AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE/DIRECTORATE ON
THIS IMPORTANT MATTER AND INDICATED THAT ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN SEA DUMPING
CONSULTATIONS. STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALER
WELCOMED SUCH CLOSER COOPERATION WITH ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE, AT WHICH POINT RODERICK AND FAIRCLOUGH
HAD TO LEAVE TO ATTEND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING. NO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE
WAS PRESENT FOR REMAINING DISCUSSION OF RADIOACTIVE
WASTE MANAGEMENT.

(B) "STATE OF THE ART" DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH U.S.
(LEGASSIE) PRESENTATION, WHICH NOTED THAT, WHILE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14495 02 OF 03 052011Z

TECHNOLOGISTS MAY ACCEPT PROPOSITION THAT WE CAN
HANDLE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS, THE PUBLIC REMAINS
UNCONVINCED AND THEREFORE MORE WORK IN THIS AREA
IS NECESSARY. IEA SECRETARIAT (KLEIN) STRESSED
NEED FOR VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION" TO SHOW THAT

TECHNICAL COMMUNITY IS CONFIDENT IT HAS THE ANSWERS. REMAINING DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON NEED FOR ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO SECURE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF ALREADY KNOWN DISPOSAL TECHNIQUES WITH CONTINUING PARALLEL WORK ON OTHER OPTIONS. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS LAMENTED FACT THAT, WHILE TECHNOLOGY APPEARED TO BE ADEQUATE TO HANDLE PRESENT LIMITED QUANTITIES OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE, THERE IS NO PLACE TO STORE IT OR DISPOSE OF IT.

(C) DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR R&D ALSO INITIATED BY U.S. OTHER DELS AGREED THAT NEAR TERM VALIDATION OF ELEMENTS OF EXISTING MODELS AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN PROCEDURES (IN WHICH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS KEY ELEMENT) IS REQUIRED, ACCOMPANIED BY PARALLEL R&D PROGRAM. U.S. REP INDICATED IMMEDIATE NEED FOR MORE PRECISE GUIDELINES ON REACTOR DE-COMMISSIONING AS WELL AS ON LICENSING PROCEDURES, DATA BASE TO BE PRESENTED WHEN FILING DISPOSAL APPLICATORS, AND STANDARDS TO BE MET.

(D) DISCUSSION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS REVEALED UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL IS GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY, BUT THAT COSTS SHOULD BE BORNE BY WASTE PRODUCERS, I.E., THE UTILITIES, WHICH SHOULD RECOVER THESE COSTS FROM ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 14495 02 OF 03 052011Z

(E) CHAIRMAN'S RATHER BLAND SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION OF NE(78)2, WHICH SIMPLY REQUESTED SECRETARIAT TO EXAMINE HOW PROBLEMS ADDRESSED IN DOCUMENT CAN BE HANDLED, PROVOKED IMMEDIATE STRONG RESPONSE FROM AUSTRALIAN, EC, GERMAN, DUTCH AND ITALIAN REPS AND DG WILLIAMS. ALL EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR MORE CLEARLY DEFINED DIRECTIONS TO SECRETARIAT. IT WAS ULTIMATELY AGREED THAT WILLIAMS WOULD CONSULT WITH EXPERTS OF HIS OWN SELECTION IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY AND WOULD PRODUCE DOCUMENT, FOR CONSIDERATION AT OCTOBER SESSION, SUMMARIZING PRESENT DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDING ACTION PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION.

(F) ALMOST WITHOUT DISCUSSION, STEERING COMMITTEE ADOPTED PARAGRAPH 8 OF NE(78)7.

8. STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVED PROGRAM OF SYMPOSA AND SEMINARS FOR 1979.

9. IN INTRODUCING PROPOSED 1979 WORK PROGRAM,
SECRETARIAT (HANNUM) SAID PROGRAM CONTENT WOULD
INVOLVE LITTLE CHANGE FROM 1978. U.S. (VANDERRYN)

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14495 03 OF 03 052009Z
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 CEQ-01 EPA-04
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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 14495

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NOTED LACK OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS IN NE(78)9,
WHICH MEMBERS HAVE FOUND VALUABLE IN EVALUATING
PREVIOUS WORK PROGRAMS. OTHER DELEGATIONS SUPPORTED
U.S. ON THIS POINT AND DG WILLIAMS, STATING THAT
HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO EXCLUDE RESOURCE DATA,
PROMISED THAT OCTOBER VERSION OF WORK PROGRAM WOULD
INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.
FRENCH REP NOTED WITH APPROVAL MORE DYNAMIC"
NATURE OF PROPOSED 1979 WORK PROGRAM. UK STRESSED
NEED FOR NEA TO BE PERCEIVED AS AN OBJECTIVE BODY
WHICH PRODUCES HIGH QUALITY WORK. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WORK PROGRAM WOULD SUPPORT
MEMBERS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER. DURING
QUICK PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH REVIEW OF NE(78)9, US
NOTED THAT NEA STUDY OF ECONOMICS OF REACTOR DECOM-
MISSIONING WOULD BE DESIRABLE. DISCUSSION CON-
CLUDED WITH STEERING COMMITTEE AGREEING THAT
NE (78)9 WOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR PREPARING
1979 BUDGET, INCLUDING RESOURCE DATA, FOR OCTOBER
CONSIDERATION.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 14495 03 OF 03 052009Z

10 STEERING COMMITTEE REELECTED ALER (SWEDEN,
CHAIRMAN) AND RUNNALLS (CANADA, VICE CHAIRMAN)
AND ELECTED MISS VAN DE WINKEL (NETHERLANDS) AS OTHER
VICE CHAIRMAN REPLACING GOLDSCHMIDT (FRANCE).

11. NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SET FOR
OCTOBER 26.
SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

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